

Appl. No.: 10/573,376
Amdt. dated June 27, 2008
Reply to Office Action of January 29, 2008

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4, 6, and 8-26 are pending. In the final Office Action, Claims 7-9, 12-15, and 22-26 were indicated to be allowable in subject matter.

In order to expedite allowance of a patent for the allowable claims, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to include all of the limitations of Claims 5 and 7. Claim 1 thus corresponds precisely to original Claim 7, which the Office Action indicated to be patentable. Accordingly, Claim 1 is in condition for allowance. All claims dependent on Claim 1 thus are also in condition for allowance.

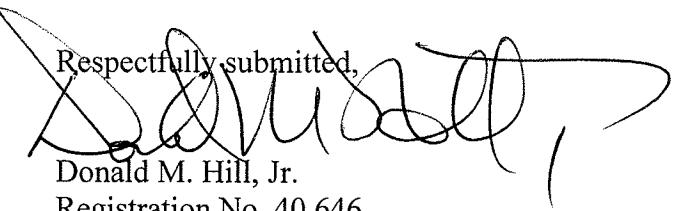
Claim 22 has been amended to be in independent form, including all of the limitations of Claims 1 and 5 from which it depended. Therefore, Claim 22 is in condition for allowance, as are all claims dependent thereon.

Based on these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

* * *

Appl. No.: 10/573,376
Amdt. dated June 27, 2008
Reply to Office Action of January 29, 2008

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald M. Hill, Jr.
Registration No. 40,646

Customer No. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111

ELECTRONICALLY FILED USING THE EFS-WEB ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE ON JUNE 27, 2008.